

## No. 0011.



idea of its plan and arrangement, as well as an engraved view, and more especial description of the House of Lords, now occupied. In our present number we illustrate the *MASS' LOBBY*, at the north end of the House, showing the brass gates, which separate it from the latter, and the carved stone-work around them more, in detail than we were able to give the work within the House.\*

This tower is 80 feet square, and, to the top of the octagon turret with which each of its four angles will be furnished, will be 346 feet high,—or little less than the height of the top of the cross which surmounts St. Paul's Cathedral! The boldness of the idea, and the effect that will be produced by this erection, may not be judged of by comparing it with the lofty spires of our cathedrals, because here the whole structure is taken up of the same dimensions, or nearly so, to the top, while in those the mass is rapidly diminished towards the summit. The faces of the tower will be elaborately panelled and ornamented, and will include two ranges of triple windows.

In excellence of workmanship and the science of shaping stones, the moderns are pre-eminent. Once imbue our operatives with the artistic feeling and skill of the old masons, and architectural works may be carried out to surpass any thing the world has yet seen. Very much has been done towards this at the building of which we are speaking.

The royal staircase, the ascent to which, as we have already said, is on the north side of the porch, is very picturesque in effect, and would afford some capital subjects for illustration, even without the statues of sovereigns, which are to be placed there ultimately.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 124 of present number.

Of the fittings of the Victoria Hall we shall not now speak, reserving our description to accompany a view of it, which we propose to give,—but passing along a corridor which runs on either side of the House of Lords (8 feet 3 inches wide, exclusive of recesses, and panelled, both walls and ceilings, with wainscot), we gain admittance to the Peers', or Public, Lobby,—the subject of our present illustration.

We will call this apartment 35 feet square. The ceiling is divided into compartments, in which are blazoned the rose, shamrock, and thistle, alternately, in circles, surrounded by coloured ornaments on a cellum-coloured ground; the moulded ribs are painted a deep neutral brown, with stancelled enrichments in red, blue, and white. Pendants, terminating in gilt crowns, intersect the ribs at their junction, and the corbels are angels holding shields, with the royal initials surrounded by the garter.

The lobby is lighted by four large gothic candelabra, bronzed and gilt. Some of the windows are filled with stained glass, continuing the illustrations of the arms of the peers called to the first Parliament. The remainder will be completed shortly. These windows were executed, like the one window in the House of Lords, by Mr. Hardman.\* The pavement of the floor consists of encaustic tiles by Minton, of lions, on a red ground, and initials on a blue ground, alternately, framed in squares by black marble margins; and in the centre is a red and white rose in coloured marbles on a blue ground (reflecting a centre rose in the ceiling), sur-

To pass once more from the decorative to the structural, we will take our readers from this lobby to the Central-Hall (a corridor 60 feet long, will connect them when finished), and, on ascending the scaffold, they will get a further idea of the strength and solidity of the carcass over which such delicate and diverse adornments are to be spread. The effect there is very striking. The hall, our readers will remember, is an octagon 70 feet square. In each of the eight sides, above the level of the adjoining parts of the building is an arch, 14 feet in span; and from the spring of these is about to be commenced the groined vault,—a ponderous mass to be carried masonically. The height from the floor to the key-stone will be, 5 feet; one of the bosses, lying there already prepared, measured 4 feet in diameter, and will supply a scale in the mind for the whole.

St. Stephen's Hall, which opens out of the Central Hall, is ready for the grinning, and the addition to the length of Westminster Hall, to be called St. Stephen's porch, and by means of which, as already said, entrance is to be given from the noble old hall, is being rapidly proceeded with. We will simply say further, that statues of Marlborough and Nelson\* will be placed in the porch, and that in St. Stephen's Hall, will be statues of men who have played important parts in the history of the Commons;† and then, as we have now more reached the outside, make our escape from the attractions of Mr. Barry's noble pile for the present.

In our last number we alluded to Jordan's patent carving machinery as a most important invention which had tended greatly to facilitate the execution of the carved decorations of the New Palace of Westminster, and having recently visited the works in the Beveder-road, Lambeth, where we saw the machine in operation, we can confidently recommend them to the notice of all who are seeking rail carving at a moderate price.

The machines are extremely simple, consisting of few parts, and being entirely free from jointed movements. The lower or horizontal part is a double railway: one carriage or frame travels on a rail to and from the workman, and a second carriage or table travels on this frame at right angles to the first movement, so that by combining these two movements, the workman can readily work the table in any direction he pleases. On this table is fixed the pattern and as many pieces of work as can be carved

One of the Commissioners of Fine Arts told us a few days ago, that Marlborough and Wellington were to be placed there. In the report, however, the names stand as we have given them. The Harcourt and the Marlborough were probably running on the monument at Hyde Park Gate.

Meibohm, Harcourt, Lord Pauline, Lord Clarendon, Lord Somers, Mr. Murray, Sir John Lubbock, Lord Salisbury, Lord Macartney, Burke, Sir John Lubbock, and Sir John Lubbock.

We may mention here, that a commission has been given for the statue of Darwin, to fill the niche in the House of Lords, by Mr. John Lubbock, of London, and to be erected.